

19 February 2026

Committee Secretariat
Finance & Expenditure Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Email: fe@parliament.govt.nz

Dear Sir/Madam,

Infrastructure Funding & Finance Amendment Bill, Submission from the Urban Task Force for Tauranga (UTF)

The Urban Task Force for Tauranga (UTF) has been incorporated as a Society with its purpose being to represent Tauranga property professionals and funders, developers, iwi and hapu, and owners and managers of property.

The UTF seeks to provide strong and informed leadership to central, regional and local authorities, promoting and fostering productive local networks around property and related issues and as an advocate for the property and development industry in the Bay of Plenty.

The UTF has previously provided feedback to Government on the need to update and reform the Infrastructure Funding & Finance Act, having made previous submissions on the Government's "Going for Housing Growth discussion paper" dated June 2025 and the "Draft National Infrastructure Plan" dated August 2025.

UTF have raised ongoing concerns about the funding of infrastructure in New Zealand. Specifically, we have been concerned about Local Government's funding of infrastructure, current Development contribution models and cost recovery, and the need for alternative funding mechanisms and vehicles. In many areas Local Government continue to not provide value for money in delivering infrastructure.

UTF strongly supports the Government's proposal to amend the Infrastructure Funding and Finance Act (IFF Act), by allowing the use of special purpose vehicles (SPVs) instead of continuing to rely on Council or other infrastructure authorities to fund infrastructure. We also support the change to exclude finance raised using a SPV from Council's balance sheets under the Bill. SPV's can repay any finance raised by charging a levy on those who benefit from the infrastructure, and this is supported.

There are changes proposed which will help to improve the usability of the IFF Act and which remove unnecessary barriers including the current extensive process hurdles required for applicants, In terms of accessibility, UTF agree that there should be widened access to the IFF funding regime with the

ability for additional infrastructure and projects to be able to access IFF funding. This includes community infrastructure projects which are not owned or controlled by Council or other Government entity. This is particularly important and critical for continued growth in the Western Bay of Plenty sub-region.

The rules for setting, collecting and recovering levies have also been clarified through the Bill, and layers of approval have been removed which will ensure that eligible infrastructure no longer requires Ministerial approval in all instances.

As set out in our submission on Going for Housing Growth (June 2025) these changes are necessary to assist with ensuring that housing is built as part of the Government's housing growth program.

Overall, the changes proposed through the Bill will enable a much more flexible approach to the funding of infrastructure that better responds to development. The Bill will remove unnecessary barriers to using IFF funding and will improve its viability for a wider range of infrastructure projects including those projects which are not Local or Central Government initiated.

The levy development and approval process and recovery is also supported as the process is to be simplified and streamlined.

We hope that the above feedback on the Bill is of some assistance to the Committee.

The UTF would welcome the opportunity to be heard in support of our submission, and we would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have.

Yours faithfully



Scott Adams
Chairman

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